

## **Board Meeting of the Scandinavian Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine (SSAI)**

**Venue:** Arena Hotel, Malmö

**Dates and time:** September 5, 2017

Present: Sigga Kalman; president (SWE), Per Nellgård; treasurer (SWE), Michael Haney; editor-in-chief (SWE), Gunnar Bentsen (N), Jon Henrik Laake; chair CPC (N), Annukka Vahtera; chair EdCom (FIN), Annette Ulrich (DK), Klaus Olkkola; president SAY (FIN), Reidar Kvåle; president NAF (N), Mikael Bodelsson; congress president (SWE), Martin Holmer; president SFAI (S), Lasse Raatiniemi (FIN), Lars Rasmussen; next congress president (DK) (Saturday), Alma Möller; past congress president (IS), Sören Pischke; webmaster (N), Tom Silfvast; secretary general (FIN), Kari Hreinsson; president Iceland, Svein Felsby; president DASAIM (DK) and Ivar Gunnarson (IS) were excused.

### Minutes

#### **1. Opening of the meeting**

Chairman Sigga Kalman opened the meeting at 8:00 and greeted participants welcome. She was elected chair for the meeting.

#### **2. Approval of the agenda.**

The agenda was approved.

#### **3. Deciding on dates of upcoming meetings**

- Congress Malmö 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017 with preceding Board meeting on Sep 5.
- Winter meeting in Reykjavik 2018; January 11 - 13 with Acta Foundation Board and SSAI officers meeting on January 10.
- SSAI Board meeting 14.-16.6 2018 and visiting the 35<sup>th</sup> SSAI Congress venue in Copenhagen

#### **4. Report on the 34<sup>th</sup> SSAI Congress in Malmö/Lund 2017.**

Mikael Bodelsson presented. Currently 1120 participants; two thirds from Sweden. There will be 47 sessions. 160 abstracts have been submitted, but about 20 have been retracted. The anticipated congress profit is calculated to be approx. 0.5M SEK. *Powerpoint attached.*

#### **5. Preparation for the GA**

- a. Sigga reviewed for information the proposal for revision of the SSAI articles. The proposal was presented for first discussion at the General Assembly in Reykjavik in 2015 and is now put forward for

second discussion and approval to the upcoming General Assembly on September 9.

- b. Sören reported on Acta Foundation (AF) activities. After Ivar Gothgen stepped down as the manager for the AF, the AF Board has been intensely involved in organizing the business activities into a new shape. There have been major problems acquiring access to the AF bank account and assets, with reimbursements of costs related to the work done by the editors of the Journal, and the establishment of a functioning payment system. Cooperation with Danske Bank has been very demanding, and learning to use the new payment system set up with Azets has not been simple. Now finally, the payment system is up and running. The AF Board continues to actively maintain and develop the AF functions.
- c. Per reported on the financial issues of the SSAI. The financial situation is stable, and the surplus the SSAI accrues is basically equivalent to the amount of grants the AF annually pays to the SSAI. There is a big flux of money flowing through the SSAI account generated by the educational programs. Some programs use the SSAI and some manage their own economy without transparency to the SSAI. There are large variations between how the programs are organized and how their costs and cost structure are built up. **The Board decided** that Per and Annukka will bring a report on how the educational programs are structured and financed to the next Board meeting. It was generally considered that there should be a common approach to the organization of the SSAI educational programs, and the report will provide a basis for a decision on how to proceed.

Per also informed about the problems arising from the fact that the SSAI does not have an organization number. When the SSAI sends invoices, the payers request an organization number to be able to sort out issues regarding VAT and credibility of the SSAI. Based on Per's suggestion, **the Board decided** that we register the SSAI in Sweden to get to get an organization number.

d. **SSAI, Acta foundation and Wiley. Proposed change in the contract with Wileys.**

The National societies (NS) currently pay Wiley directly for the subscription fee of the Journal for their members. All NS members get the Journal. Now that the Board has decided that the SSAI membership fee in the future includes the Journal, and that the SSAI instead of the NS pays Wiley for the subscriptions, a new contract has to be negotiated with Wiley. Because the agreement on publication of the Journal is between AF and Wiley, Sigga and Sören as AF Board representatives will meet Thomas Trier-Mork representing Wiley during the congress on this topic.

e. **Acta Foundation Board report**

Sören reported on the AF Board activities since last meeting. Powerpoint attached.

f. **Proposal of membership fee to SSAI**

In line with item 5d above, the Board suggests to the General Assembly that the NS pay an SSAI membership fee which includes the Journal. Therefore, the suggested fee is substantially bigger than the current fee of DKK 100,- per active specialist member the NS pay today, but then the NS do not pay Wiley anymore for the Journal. The net sum the NS pay for SSAI membership including the Journal will be significantly smaller than the current SSAI membership fee and the subscription fee to Wiley. Because the AF Board has previously decided that it will not continue to increase AF assets, part of the surplus the Journal generates and which Wiley refunds the AF, will be used to enable a decrease of the subscription fee. Based on the above, **the Board decided** to suggest to the General assembly that the annual SSAI membership fee is DKK 275,- .

g. **Membership fee for non-Nordic-society members**

Tom suggested that the membership fee for anaesthesiologists who are not members of a Nordic society pay an annual membership fee of DKK 200,-. The fee is suggested not to include the Journal nor to entitle to a reduction of the registration fee to the SSAI congresses, but an associate member is eligible to apply for participation in the SSAI advanced educational programs. **The Board decided** accordingly.

## 6. Reports from the Committees

### **Clinical Practice Committee** – Jon Henrik Laake

Jon Henrik presented. There are some changes among the members. Anna Oscarsson-Thibblin will be replaced by Michelle Chew, and Jon Henrik by Morten Hylander Möller. The CPC has been co-working with the Canadian society of Critical Care and published several joint reviews. All guidelines produced and endorsed by the CPC are required to comply with the GRADE system. The CPC hosted a joint meeting with the chairs of the quality registries in anaesthesia and intensive care in the Nordic countries to facilitate collaboration.

### **Research Committee** – Michael Haney

Three applications for research grants have been received and reviewed by the committee. The available sum of DKK 300.000,- was decided to be equally divided between the applicants, and the grants will be handed out during the congress. The 6 best congress posters will compete for best presentation and be awarded.

### **Election Committee** – Alma Möller

The committee proposes that Klaus Olkkola be elected next President for the SSAI as current President Sigga Kalman has been president for the maximal time defined in the SSAI articles.

### **Educational committee** – Annukka Vahtera

All program representatives were present during the joint AEP-EdCom meeting in March 2017. The ICU program is again up and running, and the CREM program is planned to be re-launched next spring.

## 7. Report on the 35<sup>th</sup> SSAI Congress in Copenhagen 2019.

Lars presented. The congress dates are August 28 – 30, 2019. The website and information will be launched on Friday. *Powerpoint attached.*

## 8. Launching the new logo

Sören presented. The decision to create a new visual identity for the SSAI was taken by the Board one and a half years ago. After a selection process, the Norwegian company TANK was chosen to carry out the project. The launch of the new SSAI logo will be at the opening session of the Malmö congress on Wednesday. After that, all material associated with the SSAI shall be in line with the new visual identity, i.e., the SSAI website, the Journal appearance,

congresses, publications and courses. The total cost approximates DKK 400 000,-.

#### **9. Webmaster's report: status and future strategy**

Sören presented. The webmaster attended the Social media and critical care (SMACC) 2017 congress in spring 2017 and reported about the content. The concept is unique and the congress was a success. Future plans include cooperation with Free Open Access Meducation (FOAM).

#### **10. The SSAI position paper**

Sigga recapitulated the history behind the initial paper written in 2008 – 2009 and published in 2010. The Board was divided in groups and discussed strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of our specialty to provide a basis for the task force set to revise the position paper. The results were presented and the material handed over to the task force formed by Sigga, Klaus, Michael.

#### **11. Report from the National societies**

##### **a. Iceland – Kari**

Kari presented the new specialist training in anaesthesiology in Iceland, performed in cooperation with the Royal College of Anaesthesists, which starts this autumn.

##### **b. Finland – Klaus**

There are financial challenges in the Finnish anaesthesia departments. The recruitment of new officers to posts in the national society is difficult. New legislation centralizing on-call services and defined operations and treatments has recently been passed. Klaus also presented the Finnish specialist training system.

##### **c. Denmark – Annette**

DASAIM chair Sven Felsby is on a sick leave and is temporarily replaced by Carsten Tollund. Annette is stepping down as DASAIM representative. Denmark experiences the same financial constraints in the health care sector as the other countries. A new national IT-system has been implemented which does not allow for any data output, creating a massive amount of manual work to produce statistics etc. The Danish specialist training system was also presented.

#### **d. Sweden – Martin**

Finances are stable. Current topics under discussion include quality, care bundles, training and education. Martin also presented the outline of specialist education described in the SFAI guideline book on education.

#### **e. Norway – Reidar**

The specialist training in Norway is under reorganization. The standards of anaesthesia services have been updated. The specialty of emergency medicine has been established, but it is defined not to interfere with anaesthesiology. Half of the NAF Board is stepping down in October, which will reflect the representation in the SSAI Board.

### **12. The Journal - Michael**

The Journal is profitable and running well. Half of the published articles are from the Nordic countries. There is a turnover of editors due to the retirement of several colleagues.

### **13. The meeting was closed at 16.30**